

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This application has been reconsidered carefully in light of the Office Action dated as mailed on 23 July 2003. A careful reconsideration of the application by the Examiner in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

5 This response is timely filed as it is filed within the three (3) month shortened statutory period for response to the outstanding Office Action.

There is no additional claim fee due for this Amendment because the total number of claims does not exceed the number of independent and dependent claims for which fees have previously been paid.

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Amendment to the Claims

By the above,

1. claims 21-25 have been canceled without prejudice and
2. claims 26-30 have been added to more fully and completely claim the disclosed subject matter.

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Newly added claims 26-30 are directed to methods for inflating an inflatable restraint element involving initiating reaction of the gas generant material disposed within the housing of various of the previously specifically claimed inflator devices. Such a claimed invention finds support throughout the original specification

such as at page 9, lines 14-18 and page 10, line 19 through page 11, line 3, for example.

Claims 1-20 and 26-30 remain in the application.

Drawings

5 Submitted herewith are new formal drawings for the subject patent application. These formal drawings are believed to be and are intended to be in full compliance with the requirements set forth in the outstanding Office Action.

In view of the newly submitted drawings, notification of satisfaction of the drawing requirements is hereby requested.

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Election/Restrictions

The application has been alleged to contain claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

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- I. Claims 1-20, drawn to an inflator device, classified in class 280, subclass 741 and
- II. Claims 21-25, drawn to a method wherein a quantity of a liquid phase gas generant is reacted to produce gas, classified in class 149, subclass 109.6.

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The invention of Group I (claims 1-20 drawn to an inflator device) is the invention elected for examination, without traverse.

Newly Added Claims

Claims 26-30 have been added.

5 As each of these newly added claims depends on one of the elected claims, e.g., claims 1-20, the maintaining these claims in the subject application is believed desirable in the interest of efficient prosecution and such course of action is requested.

Conclusion

It is believed that the above elections are properly responsive to the requirements contained in the Action and that the application is in condition for substantive examination. Should the Examiner detect any issue or have any question which might be resolved via a telephone discussion, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the (847) 490-1400, in an effort to expedite examination of the application.

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Respectfully submitted,



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